

Louisiana's Seafood Future: An Industry Adapts to Change

Shrimp Task Force January 16, 2019

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Why Louisiana's Seafood Future (LSF)?

Land loss, commodity prices, and coastal restoration and protection projects all affect how members of the industry do their jobs. The challenges are great, and they can't be met simply by relying on the resilience of individual entrepreneurs.

Slide 2

BP2

change "proposes" to "proposed"

Banks, Patrick, 12/7/2018

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Mission:

To highlight adaptation tools created by those most affected by changes in the seafood industry—the shrimpers, crabbers, oyster fishers, finfishers, dockworkers, and processors—who are at the heart of our coastal economy and culture.

Slide 3

BP3

remove "their"

Banks, Patrick, 12/7/2018

LSF Objectives

1. Identify challenges facing the fishing industry related to changing environmental conditions (coastal land loss, water quality, etc.).
2. Identify environmental, economic and policy information that could be helpful to members of the seafood industry.
3. Discuss restoration and protection projects, including issues related to when and how projects are brought on line.
4. Identify adaptation strategies that could help the industry.
5. Identify funding sources, if necessary, that could help the industry put adaptation strategies into practice.

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The LSF Mandate

- This is not a government program to manage a fishery, or manage the economic model of a fishery. We aren't writing regulations or giving out funds.
- LSF is a collaborative information gathering effort. We want to identify the tools needed to keep Louisiana's seafood industry going strong.
- Our work takes into account ecosystem, economic, and community needs—both short and long-term. We also need options that everyone agrees are practical and likely to be effective.

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The LSF Mandate

- The adaptation toolbox we create should address specific needs of the industry, regional differences, and gear-specific solutions.
- Tools should consider the entire supply chain of each fishing industry. The location of assets and resources are also crucial factors to consider.
- LSF aims to provide a comprehensive plan based on reaching out to members of the seafood industry.

Work Done in 2018: Workgroups Convened

A Collaborative Information Gathering Effort Begins

- Four workgroups were convened (crab, finfish, oyster, shrimp).
- The groups met throughout 2018 and gave us crucial ideas for the first draft of an adaptation toolbox.
- In 2019, the conversation gets broader as we work directly with industry taskforces and members across that state in each industry.

2018 Workgroup Liaisons:

Earl Melancon, Sea Grant
Julie Falgout, Sea Grant

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup

Shrimp Industry Workgroup Members

Thomas Olander – Shrimp Industry

Kristin Baumer, Shrimp Industry

Nicky Alfonso, Shrimp Industry

Acy Cooper, Shrimp Industry

Oyster Industry Workgroup Members

John Tesvich –Louisiana Oyster Task Force

Byron Encalade, Oyster Industry

Dan Coulon, Oyster Industry

Toby Voisin, Oyster Industry

Crab Industry Workgroup Members

Pete Gericca, Crab Industry

Britney Breaux, Crab Industry

Chalin Delaune, Crab Industry

Al Cassagne, Crab Industry

Finfish Industry Workgroup Members

George Huye – Rec Fisherman

Capt. Lucas Bissett – Charter Fisherman

Douglas Oleander – Commercial Fisherman

Harlon Pierce – Fish Dealer

Industry Workgroup Liaisons

Earl Melancon, Sea Grant

Julie Falgout, Sea Grant

Work to be Done in 2019

Overall Process

1. Set up ways for industry members to keep track of and add to the adaptation toolbox ideas being suggested.
2. Host industry meetings across the coast (Oyster, Shrimp, Crab & Finfish) from January to April 2019.
3. Compile adaptation toolbox ideas into draft LSF summary document in June 2019.
4. Present summary document to CPRA at July 2019 board meeting.
5. Prepare final draft of initial plan by August 2019.

Work to be Done in 2019

Questionnaire and Fact Sheets

- Online adaptation questionnaire. You give opinions about proposed strategies and suggest new ideas. We'll update the questionnaire to reflect your feedback.
- Fact sheets. We summarize the ideas we've gained on fact sheets. You provide comments at meetings and online. We keep updating the fact sheets to reflect your feedback.
- The questionnaire and fact sheets will be publicized on radio and posted on social media sites like Facebook. They will also be sent to industry members via email and snail mail. Laseafoodfuture.com will have updates.

Work to be Done in 2019

A Three Tiered Approach to Outreach

- TIER I (January and February). Take part in task force meetings for all fishing sectors. Live stream and/or tape meetings as podcasts for those who can't attend in person.
- TIER II (February and March). Hold 4 to 5 regional meetings.
- TIER III (March and April). Take part in LA Fisheries Forward Dock Days. Provide summaries of findings to date.

Work to be Done in 2019

Potential Meeting Locations

TIER I: Live Stream Task Force Meetings	TIER II Targeted Regional Meetings	TIER III Dock Day locations
Oyster Task Force: Wednesday Jan 9, 2019 at 1 pm; UNO	St. Bernard, Feb 18 or 19, 2019	March 7 – St. Bernard
Shrimp Task Force: Wednesday, Jan 16, 2019 at 10 am, Terrebonne Council Room, Houma	Westbank of Plaquemines, Feb 18 or 19, 2019	March 8 – Venice
Crab Task Force: Tuesday, Feb 5, 2019 at 1 pm. UNO	Lake Charles Area/Chenier Plain - SOWELA meeting room	March 12 – Houma
Finfish Task Force – TBD, Baton Rouge, LDWF Louisiana Room	other community planning opportunities	March 14 – Cutoff
		March 18 - Delcambre
		March 21 – Cameron

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup - Finfish

Finfish - Commercial

- Expansion of Gear Options
- Expansion of Species Options
- Fishing in More Productive Areas
 - Vessel Modifications to Increase Efficiency
 - Access to private water bottoms
- Marketing to Help Increase Value of Catch

Finfish - Charter For-Hire

- Fishing in More Productive Areas
 - Vessel modifications to increase efficiency
 - Access to private water bottoms
- Reduced limits to help shorten trips and make it more possible to run multiple trips per day
- Moratorium on charter licenses to increase profitability of those already in industry

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup - Finfish

Finfish - Recreational

- Fishing in More Productive Areas
 - Vessel Modifications to Increase Efficiency
 - Access to private water bottoms
- Social acceptance of catching less fish

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup - Shrimp

- Fishing in More Productive Areas
 - Vessel modifications
 - Refrigeration
 - More efficient engine
 - Modified or New Harvest Gear
 - Obtain federal shrimp permits
- Diversify Into Other Fisheries
- Diversify Into Other Lines of Work
- Receive Education for business plan development to assist with obtaining funding for capital improvements to vessel, gear, other
- Marketing to improve shrimp prices to offset increased costs associated with #1 above

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup – Crabs

- Fishing in More Productive Areas
 - Vessel modifications
 - Refrigeration
 - More efficient engines
 - Gear Modifications
 - General trap improvements
 - Buster-specific crab trap
 - Increased access to private water bottoms
- More Derelict Trap Cleanups
- Develop Local Bait Source
- Moratorium on crab licenses
- Ways to reduce predation on crabs (more black drum and red drum fishing)

Coastal Fishing Industry Adaptation Workgroup – Oysters

- Move to More Productive Areas
 - Lift Oyster Lease Moratorium
 - Turn Some Public Grounds into Leaseable Areas
 - Modify vessels to fish farther from home port
 - Refrigeration
 - More efficient engines to burn less fuel
- Modify Operations to Off-Bottom Cultivation
 - Further develop hatcheries
 - Further develop seed sources
- Compensation/Mitigation

Questions?

